E. Records of the erstwhile rulers

(15) Resolution by Prof. K.Veerathappa

"Resolved that steps be taken to acquire the Palace archives of the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore. The archives will be very helpful to study the social, economic and administrative conditions of the Princely State of Mysore. Immediate steps may be taken to acquire the archives of the Mysore Maharaja".

Standing Committee's views:

In 1950 the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission at its 16th meeting had recommended vide Resolution XI "that the Government of India and the State Governments may be requested to take appropriate steps to preserve the historical records which are in the personal custody of the Indian Princes, after the merger of their States with the Indian Republic, with a view to ensuring their preservation and making them accessible for bonafide research". The above resolution was forwarded by the Government of India to the Rajpramukhs of all Part B States by name and to the Chief Commissioners of some of Part C States which were created as a result of the integration of erstwhile Princely States. The Government of Mysore, informed that there were no old records or manuscripts or antiquities of historical importance in the Mysore Palace.

Other Part B and C States whose replies to the above resolution were received are: Bilaspur, Bhopal, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Pepsu, Kutch, Saurashtra, Hyderabad, Travancore & Cochin, Vindhya Pradesh and Tripura.

Rajasthan Government also replied. The Governments of Pepsu, Hyderabad, Travancore & Cochin, Vindhya Pradesh and Tripura informed that there were no records in the custody of the rulers of the covenanting States. The Chief Commissioner of Bilaspur reported that the administration received no records from the late State regime, while the Chief Commissioner of Bhopal informed that all precautions necessary in this direction were being taken. The Chief Minister of Madhya Bharat reported that the work of collecting all records and materials of historical importance from the covenanting States had been taken up. Saurashtra informed that all records, manuscripts, books, antiquities etc. of the covenanting States of Nawanagar, Bhavnagar, Porbander, Gondal, Jafrabad, Wankaner, Limbdi, Amarnagar and Maliya were handed over to the authorities of Saurashtra Government. The rest of the merging States in Saurashtra had no historical records. The Government of Rajasthan appointed a Committee of scholars for a survey of records of various covenanting States. As a result, the State Government was in a possition to take over large number of public records of the erstwhile Princely States. The report of this Committee can be seen on pp. 115-133 of the Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol. XXIX. Earlier in 1949 an effort was made by the late Ministry of States to prevail upon the rulers to gift their private records and historical manuscripts to the nation, but it did not yield any result. It may be noted in this connection that in view of the personal efforts made by the Superintendent, Orissa State Archives, a few erstwhile rulers whose States were merged in Orissa, have offered to deposit their records with the State Archives.